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**PRESS RELEASE**  
**For Immediate Release**

**First ever Kilit Festival launched in Coron, Palawan**

**November 14, 2018, Coron, Palawan.** Featuring the Blue-headed Racquet-tail, a Palawan endemic locally known as “Kilit”, the first ever Kilit Festival was celebrated in Malbato Elementary School, Bgy. Bintuan, Coron, Palawan on November 14, 2018. The celebration with the theme of “*Tawan Ta ‘Y Importansiya ang mga Samu’t Saring Kabui Ang Busuanga* (Enhancing Biodiversity Conservation in Busuanga), was enthusiastically attended by over 400 students and teachers from seven elementary and four target high schools. Special performance from Kilit (Blue-headed Racquet-tail) and Lusi (Palawan Hornbill) mascots filled the air with festivity while reconnecting the participants to wildlife and environment!

The event kicked off with Birdingwatching activity headed by Birdwatch Coron through the leadership of Chin Fernandez. The Kilit Annual Fun Run followed next after which participating schools compete for poster making, quiz bee, extemporaneous speaking, environmental chant, sayawit and wildlife costume contests. All the winners received a certificate of recognition, cash prize and Katala customized tokens (bags, notebooks, pens and pins). Simultaneous activities like face painting and coloring were filled with kids lining up for their turns. We had volunteer painters from Coron who joined in our event this year. These young participants indeed showed their talent, energy and creativity that we all need to develop and sustain for the future generation in the hope that these will all start the passion for conservation!

The event was supported by the Department of Education through a Memorandum issued by Undersecretary Alain Pascua and MIMAROPA OIC Reg. Director of DepEd Hon. Paragas. the Coron Inland District was very supportive as well under the leadership of Ma’am Heidi Garcellano. We are indebted as well to the Local Government of Coron for their generosity in providing transportation for students to attend the event. Most especially to Malbato Elementary School through Ms. Catherine Javarez for hosting this year’s festivities!

The first ever Kilit Festival was sponsored by the Katala Foundation and the Regalo ng Kilit Program in Coron. We thank the Coron Association of Tourism Establishments, Birdwatch Coron and the people of Malbato for their active participation!

For more information, please contact Joshuael C. Nuñez, Katala Foundation, P.O. Box 390, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan or at [kficacatua2016@gmail.com](mailto:kficacatua2016@gmail.com) and visit our homepage at [www.philippinecockatoo.org](http://www.philippinecockatoo.org).

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Editor’s Note:

- Katala Foundation, Inc. (KFI) uses flagship species like the Philippine cockatoo, Calamian Deer, etc to achieve its vision of conserving biodiversity with the active community involvement.
- Palawan Deer Research and Conservation Program (PDRCP) is another major program of KFI in the Calamianes and Balabac Group of Islands.
- Pictures attached: CREDITS TO KATALA FOUNDATION INC.



Ms. Nikki Dyeane Realubit of WBCP discussed about Blue-headed Racquet-tail as flagship species of Busuanga Island.



Ms. Indra D.L Widmann of Katala Foundation discussed the importance of Palawan Hornbill.



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Joshuael NuNez discussed about Calamian Deer Conservation in Busuanga



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Principal of Malbato Elementary Ms. Catherine Javarez warmly opened the whole day festivity.



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Prof. Manuel Reyes gave his opening remarks to the participating students and teachers.



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Festival orientation



Mr. Ramil Grencio, OIC Head of DepEd Coron Inland District gave his inspirational message.



Lusi (Palawan Hornbill) and Kilit (Blue-headed Racquet-tail) mascots launched during first Kilit Festival in Coron, Palawan.



Ribbon cutting of wild bird photo exhibit.



Sta. Monica Elementary School showcasing the Palawan Peacock-pheasant bagged as the first placer of the wildlife costume show.



Second (left, San Nicolas ES) and Third placer (right, Guadalupe ES)